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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/666,162	09/18/2003	Jinhu Xiong	ACC.0002US	7082
21906	7590	07/27/2007	EXAMINER	
TROP PRUNER & HU, PC 1616 S. VOSS ROAD, SUITE 750 HOUSTON, TX 77057-2631			LAMPRECHT, JOEL	
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3737				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/666,162	XIONG ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Joel M. Lamprecht	3737

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 March 2007.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-5, 12-17, 21-25, 34-38 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-5, 12-17, 21-25, 34-38 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 3/8/07 has been entered.

Response to Remarks/Arguments

The Examiner has fully considered the remarks and arguments filed 3/8/07 and is now moot under new grounds of rejection. The rejection from Biswal (6,477,399) is upheld due to the fact that it is capable of performing the same functions as limited by Claims 26-32 of the current Application. From the specification, there are no features which help distinguish the current application as being unable to perform the same functions required by the claims as written.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 26-32 and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Biswal et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,477,399).

Biswal et al. teaches a system including a magnetic resonance imaging scanner having a plurality of magnets to generate a magnetic field around a subject, a controller

coupled to the scanner to detect a magnitude of magnetic resonance signals representing a neuronal magnetic field, a second controller coupled to the magnetic resonance imaging scanner to provide an asymmetric pulse sequence to the scanner, a stimulus generator to provide a stimulus to the subject and a measurement device to measure the subject's response to the stimulus, where the plurality of magnets includes a main magnet and a gradient magnet, where the controller is further adapted to directly map electromagnetic activity of the subject via the magnitude of the magnetic resonance signals, where the map is a spatial and temporal localization of neuronal activity of the subject and where the controller is adapted to measure latency of the electromagnetic activity (col. 5, lines 14-27 and 52-60, col. 6, lines 41-56 and 63-67 and col. 7, lines 1-43).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.
2. Claims 1-7, 12-18, 21-23, 25 and 34-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by Jenkins et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,321,105) in view of Frederick et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,104,943).
3. Regarding Claims 1-5, 14-17, 23-25 and 34-36, Jenkins et al. teaches a method of magnetic resonance imaging including detecting regional neural activity in a subject

based on transient magnetic fields induced by the activity, spatially and temporally localizing the regional neural activity using at least a portion of the detected transient magnetic fields, mapping electromagnetic activity of the subject and producing an image of the region, where the magnetic resonance imaging comprises applying an asymmetric pulse sequence to the subject, where the asymmetric pulse sequence is a gradient-echo echo-planar image pulse sequence that has a repetition time of between approximately 40 and 10,000 milliseconds, an echo time of between approximately 10 and 200 milliseconds and a flip angle of between approximately 10 and 180 degrees and where detecting the magnetic resonance imaging signal includes measuring magnitude changes (col. 1, lines 48-65, col. 2, lines 60-67, col. 3, lines 1-12, col. 4 line 5- col. 5 line 10 and col. 7, lines 1-20).

4. Specifically regarding Claims 23, 25 and 34-36, it is inherent within the use of an MRI apparatus that the instructions for performing a scanning procedure of any kind would necessarily be stored on a computer readable medium because the magnitude and complexity of such instructions require that the procedure be run by computer. Regarding Claims 12, 13, and 21 Jenkins et al. teaches diagnosing a disorder of a nervous system of the subject using the regional neural activity, analyzing a drug effect on a nervous system of the subject using the regional neural activity and measuring latency of the electromagnetic activity (col. 2, lines 50-59 and col. 7, lines 21-37).

Jenkins et al. teaches all of the features of the present invention except for expressly disclosing stimulating the subject with a hemodynamically neutral stimulation where the stimulation includes providing rapid stimuli to the subject, without substantial

temporal delays, for a direct detection of regional neuronal activity (Col 6 Line 8-35). In the same field of endeavor, Frederick et al. teaches stimulating the subject with bilateral visual stimulation at a rate of 8 Hz and providing an optimized SNR to allow for direct assessment of neuronal activity (Col 5 Line 45-Col 8 Line 5). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the stimulus and enhanced coil system a as in Frederick et al. system of Jenkins et al. in order to provide additional quick response data and a method to pursue measurements based directly and solely on neuronal impulses (Col 6 Line 55-Col 8 Line 5).

5. Claims 9-11, 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jenkins et al. in view of Frederick et al. and in further view of Mueller (U.S. Patent No. 6,289,234). Jenkins et al. and Frederick et al. teach all of the features of the present invention except for expressly disclosing performing a second nervous system measurement technique to conjoin with the magnetic resonance imaging and detecting intrinsic rhythms of a nervous system of the subject using the regional neural activity, where the second nervous system measurement technique measures at least one of cerebral hemodynamic, metabolic, and neural activity. In the same field of endeavor, Mueller teaches monitoring a subject's neural activity via EEG during a magnetic resonance scan and detecting intrinsic rhythms of the subject's activity (col. 3, lines 3-25). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to monitor a subject with a second modality in order to provide additional information about the condition and activity of the subject.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joel M. Lamprecht whose telephone number is (571) 272-3250. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:30AM-4PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian L. Casler can be reached on (571)272-4956. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JML
7/19/07


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